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HARVARD
COLLEGE
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FROM THE
Subscription Fund
BEGUN IN 1858

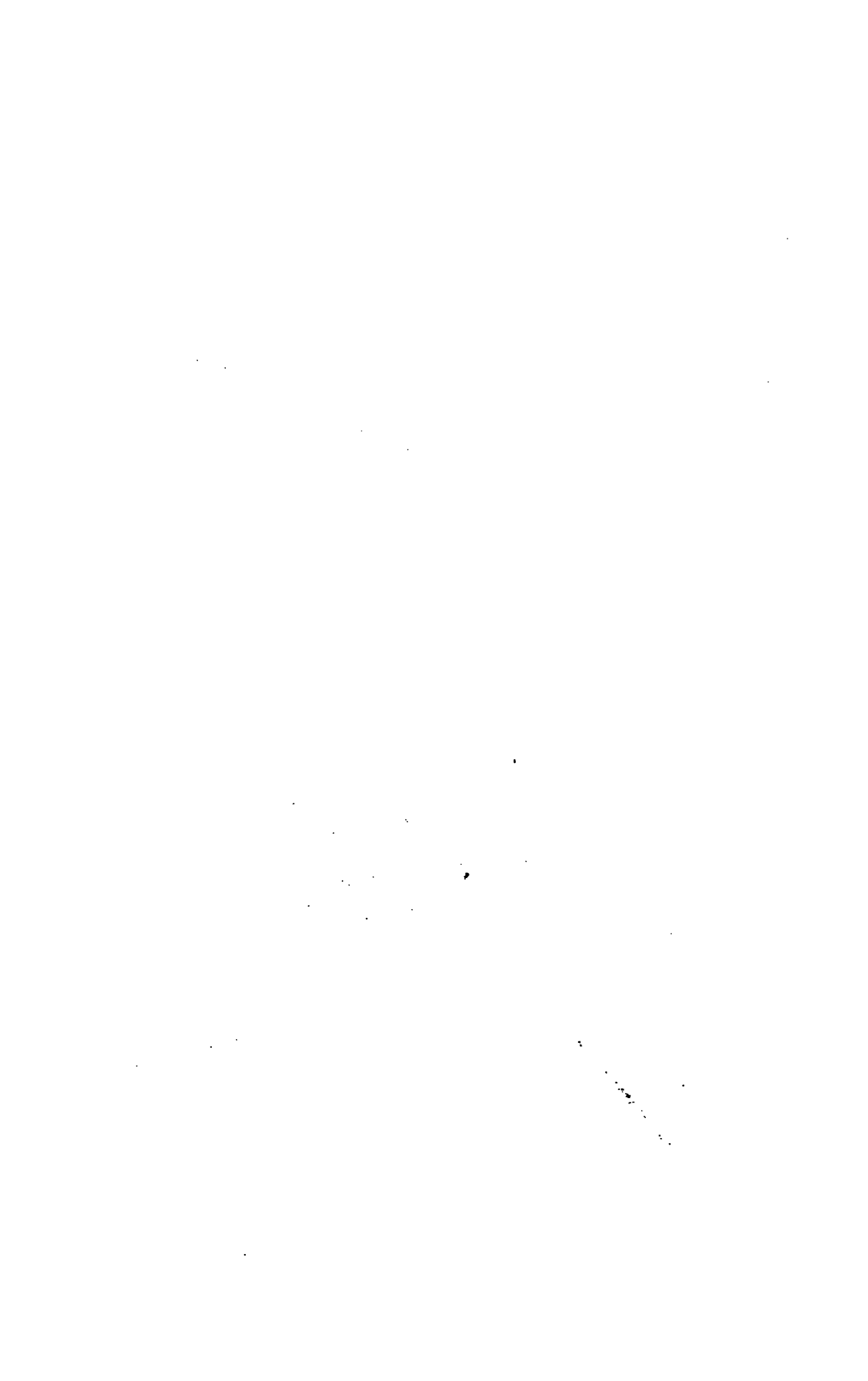
F. E. Hafely

from
Septimus Rinspe
Feb 15, 1900.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE
OF
RIVINGTON



Charles Rivington
ætat 76.



THE
PUBLISHING HOUSE
OF
RIVINGTON

EDITED BY
SEPTIMUS RIVINGTON



London
RIVINGTON, PERCIVAL, & Co.

1894

B6648.8
J



subscription fund

PREFATORY NOTE

IN printing an account of the publishing business of my family, I have thought it better to let others tell the story, than write it afresh myself. In its present form it may be interesting to some of our friends who publish with us, as well as of use to those of the family and firm who may follow in the future.

S. R.

34 KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN,
LONDON, *April* 1894.

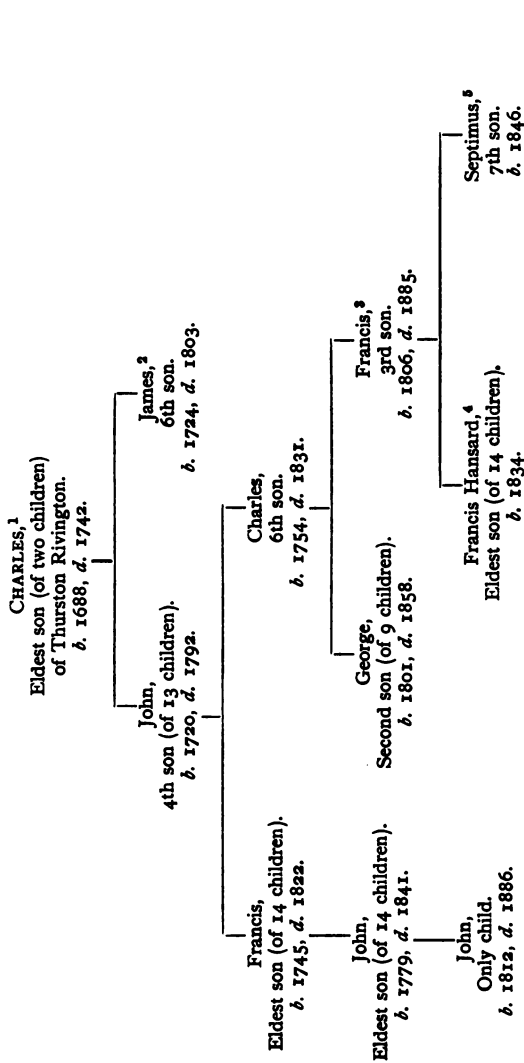
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GENEALOGY

GENEALOGY OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE OF RIVINGTON



¹ Bought Chiswell's business in 1711.
² Other brothers were Charles, a well-known Solicitor in Fenchurch Street, d. 1876; and William, for many years head of the firm of Gilbert and Rivington, printers, d. 1888 (see *Publisher's Circular*, November 15, 1888).
³ Retired in 1800. See p. 26.
⁴ Partner in Rivingtons from 1867 to 1889. Became in 1883 head of the firm of Percival and Co. which assumed the name of Rivington, Percival, and Co., July 1, 1893.

THE STYLES AND DATES OF THE FIRM

1. CHARLES RIVINGTON, 1711-1742.
2. JOHN and JAMES—Sons, 1742- (?).
3. JOHN—*See* below.
4. JOHN, FRANCIS, and CHARLES—Father and two Sons, (?) - 1792.
5. FRANCIS and CHARLES—Brothers, 1792-1810.
6. FRANCIS, CHARLES, and JOHN—Two Brothers and Son, 1810-1822.
7. CHARLES and JOHN—Uncle and Nephew, 1822-1827.
8. CHARLES, JOHN, GEORGE, and FRANCIS—Uncle, Nephew, and two Sons of Charles, 1827-1831.
9. JOHN, GEORGE, and FRANCIS—Cousin and two Brothers, 1831-1836.
10. JOHN, GEORGE, FRANCIS, and JOHN—Cousin, two Brothers, and Son of John, 1836-1841.
11. GEORGE, FRANCIS, and JOHN—Two Brothers and Second Cousin, 1841-1842.
12. FRANCIS and JOHN—Second Cousins, 1842-1859.
13. JOHN and FRANCIS HANSARD—Second Cousins, once removed, 1859-1866.
14. FRANCIS HANSARD and SEPTIMUS—Brothers, Sons of Francis, 1867-1889.
[Francis Hansard sold the business, after his brother had dissolved his partnership with him, to Longmans.]
15. SEPTIMUS RIVINGTON, son of Francis, and JOHN GUTHRIE PERCIVAL, son of Dr. Percival, Head Master of Rugby School, 1889-1893, under the style of PERCIVAL & Co.
16. The same, under the style of RIVINGTON, PERCIVAL & Co., July 1, 1893.

Memorial Stones lying in the C

Here lie the Remains of
Mr. JOHN RIVINGTON
 late of this Parish
 Who died the 16th of January 1792
 in the 72nd Year of his Age
 Also of
Mrs. ELIZA MILLER RIVINGTON
 His Wife
 Who died the 21st of October 1792
 Aged 69 Years
 Also **HENRY RIVINGTON**
 Son of Francis Rivington
 Who died the 6th April 1814
 Aged 23 Years

A

A

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 Born ;

Also
 The
 Who

S
 Born
 Also Mr
 William Rivington
 Who D

N.B.—These Stones are laid i
 LENT, 1890.

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IGTON

he Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London.

emory of

, Wife of

s Rivington

of this Parish

Dec. 8th 1829

61 Years

CHARLES RIVINGTON

May 26th 1831

76 Years

F RIVINGTON Esqr.

The Above

ivington Esq.

Jan. 10th 1832

34th Year

MARRIET RIVINGTON

of the Above

March 15th 1832

30th Year

WILLIAM RIVINGTON

of the Above

ivington Esqr.

July 2nd 1832

70th Year

HENRY Son of

and Mary His Wife

Died 10th April 1835

10 Months

MARY RIVINGTON Sister of

and Sarah Rivington

1835 in her 88th Year.

RIVINGTON

and Mary Rivington

Died Nov. 26 1836.

MARGARET RIVINGTON Wife of

The Above Charles & Jane Rivington

1837. In Her 27th Year

In Memory of

Mr. FRANCIS RIVINGTON

Who Died Oct. 18th 1822

In the 78th Year of His Age

Also of

MARGARET His Wife

Who Died Nov. 23rd 1828

Aged 74 Years

Also CHARLES

Second Son of The Above

Who Died Oct. 1st 1843

Aged 57 Years

on of the Crypt now used as a Choir Vestry.

I

THE following account of the firm is extracted, with some omissions and corrections of matters of fact, from *A History of Booksellers*, by Henry Curwen, London, 1873, now out of print. Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

Not only is the Rivington family the oldest still existing in bookselling annals, but even in itself it succeeded, a century and a half ago, to a business already remarkable for antiquity. In 1711, on the death of Richard Chiswell,¹ styled by Dun-ton "the Metropolitan of booksellers," his premises and his trade passed into the hands of Charles Rivington, and the sign of the "Bible and the Crown" was then first erected over the doorway of the house in Paternoster Row ; and from that time to this the "Bible and the Crown" might have been fairly stamped upon the cover of nearly every book issued from the establishment, as a seal and token of its contents.

¹ The printer of much of Dryden's poetry. I have an abridgment of Burnet's *History of the Reformation* published by Chiswell in 1683. [S. R.]

Charles Rivington was born at Chesterfield, in Derbyshire, towards the close of the seventeenth century,¹ and from a very early age he evinced such a taste for religious books that his friends determined to send him to London, that he might become a theological bookseller. Having served his apprenticeship with a Mr. Matthews, he was, in 1711, made free of the city, preparatory to entering into business on his own account, and, bearing the date of that year, bill-heads are still existing to which his name is affixed.² In 1718 we find him, in conjunction with other firms, issuing proposals to print by subscription Mason's *Vindication of the Church of England, and the Ministry thereof*, a principle that the family has strictly adhered to ever since; for though Rivington published one of Whitfield's very earliest works, *The Nature and Necessity of a New Birth in Christ*, preached at Bristol in September 1737, the

¹ In 1688.

² I have inserted a facsimile reproduction of the titlepage of the earliest book I possess published by my great great grandfather, Charles Rivington, in 1715, "The Archbishop of Cambray's Pastoral Letter," etc. Here also is a list of books then lately (*i.e.* before

THE
ARCHBISHOP
OF
CAMBRAY's
PASTORAL LETTER
CONCERNING
The Love of GOD.

TOGETHER
With the Opinions of the FATHERS,
on the same Subject.

Now done into English.

To which is added,
A Circular Letter, by *George Bull*, D. D.
late Lord Bishop of *S. David's*; his Visi-
tation Sermon, and his Charge to his
Diocese.

Published by
ROBERT NELSON, Esq;.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *Charles Rivington*, at the Bible and
Crown in *S. Paul's Church-yard*. 1715.

author was then a young Oxford student, who had been but just ordained ; and Wesley, too, the other great religious mover of the day, was still a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, when Rivington brought out his (Wesley's) edition of Thomas à Kempis's *Imitation of Christ*,¹ a book that has, after

Curwen's
History of
Booksellers.

1715) printed for Charles Rivington, at the Bible and Crown, in S. Paul's Churchyard.

1. Primitive Christianity ; or, The Religion of the Ancient Christians, in the First Ages of the Gospel. In Three Parts. By *William Cave*, D.D. The Seventh Edition. Price 5s.

2. The Christian indeed, and faithful Pastor ; impartially represented in a Practical Essay, and Historical Account of the Exemplary Life and Works of the late eminent *William Assheton*, D.D., Rector of *Beckenham* in *Kent*, Prebendary of *York*, and Chaplain to his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*. By *Thomas Watts*, A.M., Vicar of *Orpington*, and *S. Mary Cray*. 8vo. Price 3s.

3. The Vertue of Humility ; recommended to be printed by the late Reverend and Learned Dr. *Henry Hammond*. The Third Edition, in 12s. Price 2s.

4. Advice to young Beginners in the Christian Religion ; in a Letter to a God-Daughter, after Confirmation. Price 3d. or 20s. *per Hundred*.

5. The Lord is my Portion ; or, the Christian's Pathway to Heaven, necessary for Families. By *Tho. Allen*, Vicar of *Arlaster*, *Northamptonshire*. Price 3d. or 20s. *per Hundred*.

6. The Christian's Exercise ; or, Rules to live above the World while we are in it ; with Meditations, Hymns, and Soliloquies, suited to the several Stages of Christian Life. Adorn'd with curious Sculptures. In Four Parts. By *Thomas à Kempis*. To which is added an Appendix of Letters, Dialogues, etc. Address'd to all the true Lovers of Devotion. By *Robert Nelson*, Esq. Price 6s. [S. R.]

¹ I have a copy of this book, the titlepage printed in red and black, and illustrated with plates, dated 1735.

I also have in my possession, among several books of an early

the Bible, gone through more editions than any other.

About 1719, an association of some half a dozen respectable booksellers entered into partnership for the purpose of printing expensive books, and styled themselves the printing *Conger*,¹ and, in 1736, another similar company was started by Rivington and Bettesworth, who termed themselves the "New Conger."

date, copies of "The Scourge: in Vindication of the Church of England," 1720, with the titlepage printed in red and black, and the Bible and Crown on it. This is the earliest representation of the sign of the Publishing House of which I am aware, and I have therefore placed it on the titlepage of this book. I also give, opposite pages 4 and 5, facsimile reproductions of the titlepage and facing illustration of Part II. of "The Scourge," etc.

The "Heretical Synod" here referred to was a meeting of "Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations in and about the City of London," convened by "a general summons sent to the whole Body," and held at Salters' Hall on March 10, 1718-19, to discuss and settle certain matters of doctrine—the doctrine of the Trinity in particular—that had been giving rise to disputes among various dissenting congregations.

The meeting appears to have been a very disorderly one, and the debate to have been conducted in a most unseemly manner, with little regard for the character of the questions under discussion. No agreement appears to have been come to, each party maintaining its own view against the others; and each seems to have published its own account of the strife. Denials, contradictions, and recriminations followed, and a petty war of pamphlets raged for some time. [S. R.]

¹ The term *Conger* is ingeniously said to be derived from the eel, meaning that the association, collectively, would swallow all smaller fry.

The Heretical SYNOD at Salters-Hall . p.35



*The Self Same Thing They will abhor, | As if Religion was intended,
One way, and long another for | For nothing else but to be mended.*

1890. 10. 10. 10. 10.

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1890. 10. 10. 10. 10.

The Clerical SYNOD at Salter's-Hall.



The Clerical Synod at Salter's-Hall. The Clerical Synod at Salter's-Hall. The Clerical Synod at Salter's-Hall.

THE
ANATOMY
OF THE
HERETICAL SYNOD
OF
DISSENTERS
AT
SALTERS-HALL.

Wherein is Represented,

- I. THE Moderation and Christian Temper of an
Assembly of Divines.
- II. THE Gravity and Candor of their Debates.
- III. THE Language and Civility they use in Religious Controversy.
- IV. THE Reverence they profess for the *Divinity*
of *Christ*, for *Creeds*, *Canons*, &c.

Collected from their late BLASPHEMOUS Writings
for the Information of Posterity ; With short Remarks.

In a LETTER to a Country Friend.

L O N D O N :

Printed for CHARLES RIVINGTON, 1720.

Much of Rivington's business consisted in the publication of sermons, which, as a simple commission trade, was profitable without risk. An amusing story is told, which proves that the ponderous nature of his trade stock did not prevent Charles Rivington from being a man of kindly humour. A poor vicar, in a remote country diocese, had preached a sermon so acceptable to his parishioners, that they begged him to have it printed, and full of the honour conferred and the greater honours about to come, the clergyman at once started for London, was recommended to Rivington, to whom he triumphantly related the object of his journey. Rivington agreed to his proposals, and asked how many copies he would like struck off. "Why, sir," replied the clergyman, "I have calculated that there are in the kingdom ten thousand parishes, and that each parish will, at least, take one and others more, so that I think we may venture to print thirty-five or thirty-six thousand copies."

Curwen's
History of
Booksellers. ✓

Rivington remonstrated, the author insisted, and the matter was settled. With

**Curwen's
History of
Booksellers.**

great self-denial, the clergyman waited at home for nearly two months in silence, but at length the hope of fame and riches so tormented him that he could hold out no longer, and he wrote to Rivington desiring him to send in the debtor and creditor account at once, but adding liberally that the remittance might be forwarded at his own convenience. What, then, was his astonishment, anguish, and tribulation, when the following account was received :—

The Revd. Dr. * * *

		To C. Rivington, Dr.		
		£	s.	d.
To Printing and Paper, 35,000 Copies of	Sermon	785	5	6
By sale of 17 Copies of said Sermon		1	5	6
Balance due to C. Rivington		£784	0	0

In a day or two he received a letter from Rivington to the following purport :—

“REV. SIR—I beg pardon for innocently amusing myself at your expense, but you need not give yourself any uneasiness. I knew better than you could do the extent of

the sale of single sermons, and accordingly printed one hundred copies, to the expense of which you are heartily welcome.”¹

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

In 1736 Rivington became an active member of a society for promoting the encouragement of learning, but as he and his colleagues sustained much injury through it, this was in the following year abandoned.

In 1737 we find him venturing in a very different path. “Two booksellers,” writes Richardson, “my particular friends (Rivington and Osborne), entreated me to write for them a little volume of letters, in a common style, on such subjects as might be of use to those country readers who were unable to indite for themselves. ‘Would it be any harm,’ said I, ‘in a piece you want to be written so low, if one should instruct them how they should think and act in common cases, as well as indite?’ They were the more urgent for me to begin the little volume for the hint. I set about it, and in the progress of writing two or three letters to instruct handsome girls who were obliged to

¹ *Aldine Magazine*, p. 50.

go out to service, as we phrase it, how to avoid the snares that might be laid against their virtue, the above story occurred to me, and hence sprang *Pamela*." The first two volumes of the story were written in three months, and never was a book of this kind more generally or more quickly admired. Pope asserted that it would do more good than twenty sermons, mindful, perhaps, of its publisher; Sloccock and many other eminent divines recommended it from the pulpit; a critic declared that if all books were burnt, the Bible and *Pamela* ought to be preserved; and even at fashionable Ranelagh, where the former was in but little request, "it was usual for the ladies to hold up the volume (the latter) to one another, to show that they had got the book that every one was talking of." What, however, was more to Rivington's purpose, the volume went through five editions in the year of publication, 1741.

This success closed Charles Rivington's business life, for he died on the 22nd of February 1742.

By Eleanor Pease, his wife, a native of Newcastle-on-Tyne, he had six children, to whom his friend Samuel Richardson, the executor also of his will, acted as guardian.

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

Charles, the founder, was succeeded by John and James, who carried on the publishing business conjointly for several years, after which James joined a Mr. Fletcher, in St. Paul's Churchyard, with whom he brought out Smollett's *History of England*, by which £10,000 was cleared—the largest profit that had yet been made on any single book. This success, however, encouraged James to neglect his affairs, and he took to frequenting Newmarket; racing and gambling soon ended in a failure, and in 1760 he thought it advisable to start for the New World. Here, in Philadelphia, he commenced his celebrated *Gazette*, and, as he advocated the British interests and took the loyal side, his premises were destroyed by the rebels, and his type cast into republican bullets. James Rivington then came back to London, where he obtained the appointment of "King's printer to America," and furnished afresh

with types and presses he returned to recommence his *Royal Gazette*, which he carried on boldly up to the withdrawal of the British troops ; and as he had contrived somehow, it is said by forwarding early intelligence, to propitiate the enemy, he was allowed to continue his paper, which soon died for want of subscribers ; but until 1802 he lived in New York, leaving many descendants there. Even in those early and unsophisticated days, Yankee gentlemen had contracted the habit of "cowhiding" obnoxious or impertinent editors, and the wit of the *Royal Gazette* was in its time sufficiently stinging and personal to involve its proprietor in many of these little difficulties. James Rivington relates rather an amusing story of an interview with Ethan Allen, one of the republican heroes, who came for the express purpose of administering chastisement. He says :—

"I was sitting down, after a good dinner, with a bottle of Madeira before me, when I heard an unusual noise in the street, and a huzza from the boys. I was on the second

story, and, stepping to the window, saw a tall figure in tarnished regimentals, with a large cocked hat and an enormously long sword, followed by a crowd of boys, who occasionally cheered him with huzzas, of which he seemed quite unaware. He came up to my door and stopped. I could see no more—my heart told me it was Ethan Allen. I shut my window, and retired behind my table and my bottle. I was certain the hour of reckoning had come—there was no retreat. Mr. Staples, my clerk, came in, paler than ever, clasping his hands—‘Master, he has come!’—‘I know it.’ I made up my mind, looked at the Madeira, possibly took a glass. ‘Show him up, and if such Madeira cannot mollify him, he must be harder than adamant.’ There was a fearful moment of suspense; I heard him on the stairs, his long sword clanking at every step. In he stalked. ‘Is your name James Rivington?’—‘It is, sir, and no man can be more delighted to see Colonel Ethan Allen.’—‘Sir, I have come——’ ‘Not another word, my dear Colonel, until you have taken a seat and a glass of old Madeira.’—‘But,

sir, I don't think it proper——' 'Not another word, Colonel, but taste this wine; I have had it in glass ten years.' He took the glass, swallowed the wine, smacked his lips, and shook his head approvingly. 'Sir, I come——' 'Not another word until you have taken another glass, and then, my dear Colonel, we will talk of old officers, and I have some queer events to detail.' In short, we finished three bottles of Madeira, and parted as good friends as if we never had cause to be otherwise."

In England, to return there, John Rivington was still successfully fostering his father's business. A quiet and sedate man, with nothing of James's rashness and venture about him, he is described by West as being stout and well formed, particularly neat in his person, of dignified and gentlemanly address, going with gold-headed cane and nosegay twice a day to service at St. Paul's—as befitted the great religious publisher of the day, and living generally upon the most friendly terms with the members of the Episcopal Bench, and breakfasting every

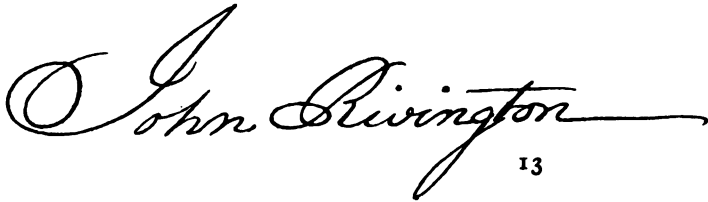
alternate Monday with Bishop Secker at Lambeth. A kind master, too, for coming back on the 30th of January, from service, and finding his sons and clerks plodding at the desk—"Tous, sous, how is this?—I always put my shutters up on this day."

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

In May 1743 he married a sister of Sir Francis Gosling,¹ Banker and Alderman, afterwards Lord Mayor, and as she brought him a fortune and fourteen children, the match may probably be considered a prosperous one.

Orthodox in his views, and true in business to the professions he held out privately, Wesley and Whitfield had to go elsewhere for a publisher, although there must have been plenty of temptation to incline the trade to patronise Methodism, for Coote, in a comedy of his, published in 1757, makes a bookseller say:—"I don't deal in the sermon

¹ Signature of John Rivington in 1742 from the books of Messrs. Goslings and Sharpe, Bankers, 19 Fleet Street.



way now ; I lost money by the last I printed, for all 'twas by a Methodist." But John Rivington would have none of them, and in 1752 we find him publishing "The Mischiefs of Enthusiasm and Bigotry: an Assize Sermon by the Rev. R. Hurd;" and about 1760 he was appointed publisher to the venerable "Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge"—an office that remained in the family for upwards of seventy years. Dissent in itself was injurious enough to his interests, but when Wilberforce and Hannah More succeeded in making a portion of the Church "Evangelical," upwards of half his customers deserted to a rival shop in Piccadilly.

Some time before this he had admitted his sons, Francis and Charles, into partnership, and he was then appointed manager in general of the works published by his *clique*—that is, of standard editions of Shakespeare, Milton, Locke, and other British classics, and of such religious works as were produced in an expensive and bulky form ; and of these works, two especially, Dr. Dodd's *Commentary* and Cruden's *Concordance*, stand out so

prominently that some slight account of their authors may not be unacceptable.

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

Samuel Richardson appears to have entertained grateful remembrance of the commission to write the "Familiar Letters to and from several Persons upon Business and other Subjects," for on his death he left a mourning ring to James Rivington.

During Dodsley's illness, Rivington and his sons managed the *Annual Register*, and when on his death it was sold to Qtridge and others, they started an annual of their own, which lasted till 1812, and then till 1820 was in abeyance, resumed again till 1823, and in the following year the two were merged into one, and after being published for a few years by the Baldwins, its management returned again to their own hands. Through the *Register* they were brought into connection with Burke, and were subsequently publishers of his more important works.

At all times the Rivingtons took a very great interest in the Stationers' Company;

this was especially the case with James, who served as master, and at the same time he, his two brothers, and his four sons were all members of the Livery. He held many public appointments, was in commission of the peace, a governor of most of the Royal hospitals, and a director of the "Amicable Society," and of the Union Fire Office.

He died, universally regretted, on the 16th of February 1792, in his seventy-second year, and was followed by his widow in the succeeding October.

Owing to the split we have referred to in his business, and to his uniform generosity, the fortune he left behind him was not large—indeed, money-hoarding has been an attribute of none of the Rivington family.

His two elder sons, Francis and Charles, carried on the business vigorously. Another son, Robert, captain of the *Kent*—East Indiaman—fell, gallantly defending his ship in the Bay of Bengal, and was thus celebrated in the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—

“ His manly virtue mark'd the generous source,
And naval toil confirm'd the naval force ;
In fortune's adverse trial undismay'd,
A seaman's zeal and courage he display'd ;
For honour firmly stood, at honour's post,
And gain'd new glory when his life he lost ! ”¹

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

A fourth son John, a printer in St. John's Square, had died previously in 1785.

The first important event in the new publishing house was the establishment of the *British Critic*, in which Nares and Beloe were conjoint partners with Francis and Charles Rivington. The *British Critic* was started in January 1793, in monthly numbers of two shillings each, and by the end of the century attained a circulation of 3500. The editorship was entrusted to Nares, and with the assistance of Beloe it was conducted down to the forty-second volume in 1813. William Beloe was some time librarian of the British Museum, but a stranger who had been admitted to the print-room, having abused his confidence, and stolen some of the pictures, the librarian was somewhat unjustly asked to resign. Among the other contributors to the

¹ See Appendix.

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

British Critic were Dr. Parr—of whom Christopher North says, not unfairly, “in his character of a wit and an author one of the most genuine feather-beds of humbug that ever filled up a corner of the world”—and Whittaker, author of the *History of Manchester*. In 1813 the second series of the *Critic* was commenced, under the editorship of the Rev. W. R. Lyall, afterwards Dean of Canterbury; in 1825 the publication was made quarterly, and a third series began, which, however, only reached three volumes.

Of all the literary men connected with the Rivingtons of this era, none were more useful, and few deserve more grateful remembrance from posterity, than George Ayscough—*facile princeps* of index makers. Originally a miller's labourer, he obtained a situation in the Rivingtons' shop, and was afterwards promoted to a clerkship in the British Museum; soon after his further rise to the position of assistant librarian he took orders; but it is as a maker of catalogues and indexes that he is still known; and how great the labour and patient skill needful in compiling

the indexes to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *Monthly Review*, and the *British Critic* must have been, all students can approximately guess from the immensity of labour saved individually by their use.

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

John, the eldest son of Francis, was admitted a partner in 1810, and in 1819 they took a lease of No. 3 Waterloo Place; and so popular were they at the time that it is said Sir James Allan Park, one of the judges, came down to the new house before nine o'clock on New Year's Day, that he might enrol himself as their first customer. In 1820 they determined to start a branch house for the sale of second-hand books and general literature, and John Cochrane was placed at the head of this establishment. He collected one of the finest stocks ever gathered, and published the best and most carefully compiled catalogue that had then been issued, extending to 815 pages, and enumerating 17,328 articles, many of the rarest kind. The business, however, entailed considerable losses, and was abandoned in 1827.

On 18th October 1822, Francis Rivington,

the senior partner, died, earning a character for high probity and sincere and unaffected piety. Like his father he had been a governor in many charitable institutions. "Such a man," says the author of his obituary notice, "cannot go unwept to the grave; and the writer of this article, after a friendly intercourse of sixty years, is not ashamed to say that at this moment his eyes are moister than his pen"—a quaint but sincere tribute. He had married Miss M. Ellill, sister of an eminent lead merchant, and four of his sons survived him.

In 1827 George and Francis, sons of Charles, joined the firm; and in 1831, Charles, the younger of the two original brothers, was found dead on the floor of his dressing-room.¹ In social life he was distinguished by the mildness and complacency of his temper; and his conversation was invariably enlivened with anecdotes and memories of the literary men and clergymen with whom he had come in contact.

The firm now, therefore, consisted of John,

¹ He died at his sister-in-law's, Mrs. Curling, King's Road, Chelsea, of an apoplectic stroke. [S. R.]

the son of the elder, and Francis and George, two sons of the younger brother.¹

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

We [know] . . . how marvellously religious life was quickened at Oxford by the publication of *Keble's Christian Year*. This feeling, intense in its inner nature as any of the revivals, culminated or fulminated in the publication of the *Tracts for the Times*—the most important work, perhaps, with which the

¹ The following is a letter addressed to the Secretary of the S.P.C.K. on the introduction of George and Francis Rivington as booksellers to the Society by their father :—

“DEAR SIR—Allow me to trouble you with a line to state that a heavy domestic affliction I have lately experienced will, I hope, plead in my excuse for not waiting upon the gentlemen of the Committee to introduce my two sons, George and Francis Rivington, as I had hoped to have done.

“But I beg to express on paper, however inadequately, my deep sense of gratitude for the many favours I have received from the Society, and particularly for the kindness of the Committee in allowing me to transfer into more active hands the business of the Society, and my hopes that the kindness and condescension which has for a long period of time been extended to me, may be continued to them.

“It has pleased Providence to permit me to have seen seventy-five years, and a relaxation from the cares of business may possibly be the means of prolonging my existence for a short time ; but I am not careful as to this, knowing that I am in the hands of a merciful Providence, to whom I have through life been indebted for many blessings, for which I cannot be too thankful.

“With sincere prayers for the prosperity of the Society, I beg to remain, with respect and regard, dear sir, your obliged and obedient servant,

CHARLES RIVINGTON.

“January 1830.”

[S. R.]

Rivingtons have ever been connected; and worthy, therefore, of the scanty notice for which we can afford space here. The *Tracts for the Times* were commenced in 1833, at a time, according to the writers, "when irreligious principles and false doctrines had just been admitted into public measures on a large scale . . . when the Irish sees had been suppressed by the State against the Church's wish. . . . They were written with the hope of rousing members of the Church to comprehend her alarming position—of helping them to realise the fact of the gradual growth, allowance, and establishment of unsound principles in her internal concerns; and, having this object, they used spontaneously the language of alarm and complaint. They were written as a man might give notice of a fire or inundation, so as to startle all who heard him" (vol. iii. p. 3). As far as fulfilment of intention went in startling, the writers were perfectly successful. Exhibiting great talents, depth of thought, logical power, acuteness of reasoning, and an undoubted religious feeling, their effect was spontaneous.

By one party, and an increasing one, the writers were welcomed with a reverend love that almost forbade criticism, and by the other with the greatest uneasiness and suspicion. The chief writers in the series, for the *Tracts* continued to appear during the space of several years, were Newman, Pusey, Keble, and Williams. In Ireland the clergy were anxious to come over in a body, and greet them collectively. In Scotland, Pusey and Newman were denounced at a public dinner as enemies to the established religion; and at Oxford, where they were personally loved and respected, they were looked upon by a large portion of the members with peculiar distrust. Parties in the Church were formed, and claimed, or were christened after, the names of the writers—such were originally the *Puseyites* and *Newmaniacs*. At length the famous “Number 90” appeared, and was thus greeted by the University :—“Modes of interpretation such as are suggested in this tract, evading rather than explaining the sense of the thirty-nine articles, and reconciling subscription to them with the adoption of errors

which they were destined to counteract, defeat the object, and are inconsistent with the due observance of the above-mentioned statement." . . .

The publication of these *Tracts* still further strengthened the Rivingtons in their position of High Church publishers, and their business benefited considerably by the great increase of the High Church party.¹

In 1827 a fourth series of the *British Critic* was commenced, incorporated with the *Theological Review*. In 1843, however, in consequence of the extreme views that

¹ The following is an extract from the late Dr. Liddon's *Life of Pusey*, 1893, vol. i. pp. 423, 424, regarding the publication of the *Library of the Fathers*:—

"The theory of translation being settled—if it was settled—the financial difficulty presented itself. How could a long series of authors, for whom there was as yet no demand, be published, without involving translators and publishers in ruinous expenses? Pusey began the solution of the difficulty by taking it for granted that, like himself, all the translators could or would do their work for nothing. Newman soon saw that this was practically impossible. At first he had said :

" 'Somehow when I come to think of it, I should not like anything to be said to R[ivington] which seemed to make our plan a speculation. Men in business are ready enough to catch up the idea that godliness is literally gain : and this would seem to be laying a *plan* for emolument.'

"But by 8th September he writes, 'I feel sure that the translators must be paid : it has grown on me.'

"But this was only half the difficulty. Would the *Fathers* sell

had been expressed in its pages, the publication was discontinued, to the very great regret of the clergy; the *English Review*, which started from its ashes, met with but little support, and lasted only till 1853.

Curwen's
*History of
Booksellers.*

To complete our personal account of the firm:—John Rivington, who married Anne, daughter of the Rev. John Blackburn, Canon of York, died 21st November 1841, at the age of 62. His son John was admitted a partner in 1836, and is the present head of the firm. George Rivington died in 1842, having retired on account of ill health in 1837, and in 1859 Mr. Francis Rivington retired from active partnership. The present representatives¹ of the firm consist, therefore,

even if translated? Messrs. Rivingtons evidently thought this doubtful; they positively declined to undertake the publication unless a body of subscribers would back them up. Thereupon Pusey offered them to risk £1000, and inquired what the expense of four volumes a year for four years would be, it being understood that the translators should be paid. Messrs. Rivingtons 'took no notice' of the offer, but continued to insist upon the list of subscribers. At last Pusey and Newman gave way.

"As we have agreed about the subscription," writes Pusey to Newman, 13th October, 'I sent the amended prospectus to Rivington yesterday. . . . I think it [viz. the plan of a subscription list] will be good; because we both disliked it, and yet are come into it.'"

[S. R.]

¹ *I.e.* in 1873, when Curwen's History was published. [S. R.]

Curwen's
History of
Booksellers.

of Mr. John Rivington, fifth in descent from the founder, and Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington, who is the sixth.

In 1853 the firm removed their place of business from the ancient house in St. Paul's Churchyard, and consolidated it at 3 Waterloo Place, retaining nothing but some warehouses in Paternoster Row. In 1862, after an interval of thirty years, they re-acquired the agency of the Cambridge "Press"—a famous manufactory of Bibles, Prayer Books, and Church Services; and in the next year, 1863, they opened branch houses at both Oxford and Cambridge—an extension of business that, after a long life of 160 years, says something for the vitality of the firm.¹

¹ End of extract from Curwen's *History of Booksellers*.

TAILPIECE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CAMBRAY'S
PASTORAL LETTER, 1715. See opposite p. 2.



The three branch houses above referred to were closed a few years afterwards in order that the firm should have time to concentrate their energies on their increasing publishing business at 3 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall.

In 1866 Mr. John Rivington retired, and in 1867 Mr. Septimus Rivington, the seventh son of Mr. Francis Rivington, was admitted as a partner, with his eldest brother, Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington. Mr. John Rivington died at Babbacombe, Devonshire, in 1886, aged 74, leaving a widow, and one son and three daughters by his first wife.¹

FRANCIS RIVINGTON

b. 1745; *d.* 1822

Francis Rivington died, says Mr. Bowyer Nichols in his *Literary Illustrations*, vol. Francis
Rivington. viii. p. 497, at Islington, where he had long

¹ [S. R.]

Francis
Rivington.

resided, on 18th October 1822. "His probity, his piety, and hilarity of disposition, endeared him to all who knew him. He was a Governor of the Royal Hospital (Christ's), a Director of the Union Fire Office, supporter of many charitable institutions. In 1805 he served the office of Master of the Company of Stationers. He was buried in the cemetery of All Faith's, adjoining the Cathedral of St. Paul's."

CHARLES RIVINGTON ¹

b. 1754; d. 1831

Charles
Rivington.

The following brief memoir, written by Mr. Alexander Chalmers, compiler of the *Biographical Dictionary*, etc., appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, June 1831 :—(1831)

"Died 26th May, in his 77th year, Charles Rivington, Esq., of Waterloo Place and Brunswick Square, the senior member of the respectable firm of Messrs. Rivingtons,

¹ For his portrait see opposite titlepage, and for extracts from his *Journal* see Appendix.

booksellers, of St. Paul's Churchyard and Waterloo Place. Charles Rivington.

He was one of the sons of John Rivington, Esq., who carried on considerable business as a bookseller in St. Paul's Churchyard, for more than half a century, where he died 16th January 1792. He was succeeded in business by his sons, Messrs. Francis and Charles Rivington. Mr. Francis Rivington died 18th October 1822, aged 77 (see character of him in our Vol. XCII. ii. p. 375), leaving his eldest son, Mr. John Rivington, as his representative in the firm. The various members of the house of Rivington have now, we believe, for upwards of a century continued booksellers to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and been uniformly patronised by the Episcopal Bench, and the higher order of the clergy; innumerable, therefore, are the valuable works on theology and ecclesiastical affairs that have been published at their expense, or under their auspices. The family of Charles Rivington have also been always much connected with the Company of Stationers. At one time his

Charles
Rivington.

father, two uncles, and three brothers, were, with himself, Liverymen of the Company. His youngest brother, Henry Rivington, Esq., died Clerk of the Company, 9th June 1829, when he was succeeded in that office by Mr. Charles Rivington, a son of Mr. Charles Rivington. His father served the office of Master of the Company in 1775, his brother Francis in 1805, and he himself in 1819. He had previously assiduously served the Company for many years in the arduous office of one of the Stock-keepers. He has left a nephew and four sons—George, Francis, Charles, and William—Liverymen of the Company, and four daughters. His death was awfully sudden, but his friends have the satisfaction of believing he was always prepared. He was on the point of removal from his residence in Waterloo Place to a house he had taken in Brunswick Square, and in the interval had accepted the invitation of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Curling, to sleep at her house in the King's Road. As he did not come down to breakfast, one of his nephews entered his bedroom,

and found him on the floor quite dead. It is supposed that he died whilst dressing himself. Charles Rivington.

The character of Mr. Rivington, through a long and very active life, has left the warmest sentiments of regret among his numerous friends and connections. This of course has been felt with most poignancy by his family, to whom he was a most affectionate parent. It was invariably his object to exhibit an example of strict moral conduct, founded on the soundest religious principles ; and he had the happiness to the very last, and without a single exception, the salutary influences of a mode of domestic education, too much neglected in the present day, and too much interrupted by the love of pleasure, and the infatuation which inclines the young to seek comfort everywhere but at home. It might perhaps appear rather personal to advert to the happy effects of Mr. Rivington's affectionate temper and paternal care on a numerous family, the conduct of all of whom formed the great consolation of his life ; especially when, a few years ago, he had the

Charles
Rivington.

misfortune to lose the mother who had so long, with a corresponding attachment, borne her share in domestic education. It may be sufficient to add that the harmony which prevailed in his family, and the united affections of his sons and daughters, were the admiration of every visitor at his hospitable table. In social life Mr. Rivington was equally distinguished for mildness and composure of temper, and his conversation was enlivened by the memory of literary history and anecdote, improved by his long continuance in business, and friendly intercourse with men of learning, and in particular with many of the highest ornaments of our Church."

FRANCIS RIVINGTON

b. 1806; *d.* 1885

Francis
Rivington.

In 1885 Mr. Francis Rivington, who had retired in 1857, and was the father of the two partners, Francis Hansard and Septimus, in the business since 1867, died at the age of 79. The following obituary notice



F. A. Rivington
etat 59.

Walker & Bonnell, Pl. Sc.



appeared in the *Publishers' Circular* of 15th January 1885 :— Francis Rivington.

“We regret to announce the death of Francis Rivington, who was born 19th January 1805, and, after being educated partly at Bremen, in Germany, was admitted into the publishing firm of Rivingtons of St. Paul's Churchyard and Waterloo Place in the year 1827. His name was especially connected with the publication of the *Tracts for the Times* and Newman's *Parochial Sermons*, as well as with many of the most eminent theological works of that time. Mr. Thomas Mozley, in his *Recollections*, mentions Mr. Francis Rivington's name in connection with the *British Critic*, noticing, in a chapter devoted to the account of a dinner-party at Mr. Rivington's, the self-repression and equanimity with which he accepted the idea of discontinuing that profitable periodical. In Mr. James Mozley's *Letters* the same subject is touched upon in a characteristic letter, in which Mr. Mozley says: ‘I called on Rivington the other day; he was very civil, even communicative on the subject of

Francis
Rivington.

the *British Critic*; seemed less alarmed at the whole state of things than I expected; inclined to keep up *British Critic* on its hitherto footing,' etc. We believe the real history of the discontinuance of that periodical, which created so much stir at the time, to have been that, besides other reasons, the Bishop of London (Bishop Blomfield) brought some pressure to bear upon Mr. Rivington to induce him to discontinue this periodical and all the numerous profitable publications emanating from the Tractarian party, and that Mr. Rivington so far yielded to the Bishop as to withdraw the *British Critic*. It was in reference to this desire of the Bishop's that the following words are said to have been used. When the Archdeacon of London pleaded that the discontinuance of such publications would ruin the firm, constituting, as they did, the chief business, and the firm was such an old one, the Bishop replied, 'Old! yes; old enough to be dead!' The firm, however, has not died, in spite of its age, exceeding that of any other publishing or commercial house in London. Mr.

Francis Rivington retired from it in 1859, and devoted his time to his favourite occupations of study and painting. Like Dr. Johnson, he was in the habit of reading Law's *Serious Call* again and again, considering its purity of diction unsurpassed by any book of its kind, and when travelling, Pascal's *Thoughts* were for many years his chief favourite. He wrote several pamphlets on various subjects, and was the author of a *Life of Saint Paul*, and editor of a new edition of Dean Sherlock's *Practical Treatise on Death*. He was twice married, and had a numerous family, most of whom have survived him. For the last few years of his life he resided at Eastbourne, where he died after a few days' illness on 7th January, almost at the completion of his eightieth year. He was buried on 12th January at Highgate Cemetery in his family grave, the service being performed by his nephew, the Rev. Thurston Rivington, Vicar of St. Nicholas, Warwick, assisted by the Rev. J. Alfred Rivington, son of Mr. John Rivington, formerly his partner in the publishing firm."

Francis
Rivington.

II

*The
Bookseller.*

ON 6th June 1890, the following appeared
in *The Bookseller* :—

IMPORTANT AMALGAMATION

The most important amalgamation that has occurred in the trade since Messrs. Longmans and Company took over the business of John W. Parker, Son, and Bourn in 1863 has just been announced. Messrs. Longmans have now arranged to purchase the business of Messrs. Rivingtons, of Waterloo Place, and thus the two oldest houses in the trade are about to coalesce. Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington, sole proprietor¹ of the business, retires as from the 1st July, and from that date all books now

¹ Since May 1889, when Mr. Septimus Rivington dissolved partnership with his brother. [S. R.]

published by Messrs. Rivington will be supplied by Messrs. Longmans and Company. *The Bookseller.*

The following account of the house of Rivington first appeared in *The Bookseller* more than thirty years ago, and as it will probably interest a generation of readers who have grown up since it was originally published, we have reprinted it, with some slight alterations and additions :—

“One of the last lingerers of London signs was that of the ‘Bible and Crown’ in St. Paul’s Churchyard, or rather in Paternoster Row. It was originally put up in 1711 as the new sign of the house in which Richard Chiswell, who was styled by Dunton the ‘Metropolitan of Booksellers,’ so many years carried on business. On his death, in 1711, the business passed into the hands of the first of a family of booksellers, whose name is familiar to every reader of religious books wherever the English language is spoken—Charles Rivington, who succeeded Chiswell. He was born at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, towards the close of the seventeenth century, and in early life evinced such

*The
Bookseller.*

a taste for the perusal of religious books that his friends determined to send him to London, that he might become a theological bookseller. He was apprenticed to a Mr. Matthews, and in 1711 acquired the freedom of the City, and carried on a flourishing business in St. Paul's Churchyard until his death in 1742. Unlike too many of the profession in the present day, Mr. Rivington was devotedly attached to his business, and appears to have been desirous of making it serve the best interests of the time in which he lived by producing many excellent manuals of devotion, and similar practical works. Amongst others he published an edition of Thomas à Kempis's *Imitation of Christ*, edited by his friend the well-known John Wesley, then a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. In 1739 he suggested to another friend, Samuel Richardson, the composition of that novel which so delighted our mothers, our grandmothers, and our great-grandmothers—*Pamela*. This was successfully brought out under his auspices. He married Eleanor Pease, a native of the county of Durham, by

whom he had six children. He died in 1742, and Mr. Richardson acted as one of his executors. He was succeeded in the business by his sons John and James, who jointly carried it on for several years, when they separated—John remaining in the old place, while James joined a Mr. Fletcher and commenced another business, also in St. Paul's Churchyard, where he remained some time and carried on a successful trade. Amongst other works he brought out a *History of England*, by Smollett, first in numbers, which made four quarto volumes, and then another edition in seven volumes octavo. By this work alone he cleared no less than £10,000—a larger sum than had ever before been made by any one book.

“We find John Rivington¹ carrying on

¹ John Rivington, brother of Francis and Charles (son of the above-mentioned John Rivington), became a printer in St. John's Square, and was succeeded by his widow, Ann Rivington. The business has been since carried on by Bye and Law, Law and Gilbert, and Gilbert and Rivington, and is now a limited company under the same name; but no member of the family has taken an active part in it for some years.

[S. R.]

*The
Bookseller.*

the old business alone till 17—, when he admitted his two sons, Francis and Charles, into partnership. Besides the numerous theological publications issued by him, he was appointed managing partner by the proprietors of the standard editions of Shakespeare, Milton, Locke, and other British classics; and on the death of Mr. Moore, about the year 1760, obtained the appointment of publisher to the venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge—an office which remained in the family for upwards of seventy years. During the illness of Dodsley, the original publisher, Messrs. Rivington managed the *Annual Register*; and when, on the death of Dodsley, that was sold to Otridge and others, in 1791, Messrs. Rivington started one of their own as a continuation of Dodsley's. This was carried on till 1812, when it was discontinued, but again resumed in 1820, and its publication carried on till the year 1823. In the following year the two, by an arrangement, merged into one, which was published by Baldwins for some time, and is now published by

Rivingtons. Through this work they be- *The*
came connected with that brilliant writer *Bookseller.*
and eminent statesman, Edmund Burke,
who had been a frequent contributor to its
pages, and he made them his publishers.¹
Mr. John Rivington appears to have been
very dissimilar from his brother James in his
tastes, becoming more and more like his
father as he advanced in life; he attended
the early morning and the afternoon services
daily in St. Paul's Cathedral, and lived upon
the most friendly terms with many members
of the Episcopal Bench, and was accustomed
to repair every alternate Monday to break-
fast with Archbishop Secker at Lambeth.
In May 1743 he married Elizabeth Miller
Gosling, sister of Sir Francis Gosling, alder-
man and banker, one of the ancestors of the
present firm of Gosling, of Fleet Street—
by her he had fifteen children. He died
16th February 1793, at the age of 72.
In 1775 he was Master of the Stationers'

¹ An edition of Burke's *Works*, forming eight volumes, 8vo, was published by Rivingtons in 1853, most carefully edited by the late Mr. Francis Rivington, and was then the only quite complete edition.

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Bookseller.*

Company, of which at one time his two brothers and his four sons, with himself, were Liverymen. At the time of his death he was in the commission of the peace, was a member of the Common Council, director of the Amicable Society, and of the Union Fire Office, and a governor of the Royal hospitals. He left a very moderate fortune, as indeed have most other members of the house—money-making being one of the parts of their business that was never very zealously pursued.

“After Mr. John Rivington’s decease the business was vigorously carried on by his two sons, Francis and Charles, who in January 1793 commenced the celebrated *British Critic*, which soon attained an extraordinary popularity. It was published monthly at 2s., and before the end of the century had attained a circulation of 3500. The other partners in this undertaking were the Ven. Archdeacon Nares, who was editor, and the Rev. W. Beloe, the translator of Herodotus. Nares edited the whole of the first series, in forty-two volumes, down to

1813. The second series, also monthly, was edited by the Rev. W. R. Lyall, afterwards Dean of Canterbury ; in 1825 the publication was made quarterly, and a third series commenced, which, however, only reached three volumes, when a fourth series, incorporating the *Quarterly Theological Review*, was commenced in 1827, and continued under several successive editorships until December 1843, when, in consequence of the Rev. Mr. Mozley, now editor of the *Times*, admitting articles advocating extreme views, the work was discontinued, much to the regret of the clergy generally. In April 1844 a new work sprang from the ashes of the old one. The *English Review*, edited by the Rev. Wm. Palmer, was commenced. It never attained the popularity of the *British Critic*, but struggled on for several years, and was finally given up in 1853, and for the first time in sixty years the house was without any periodical of its own. *The Bookseller.*

“ John, the eldest son of Mr. Francis, was admitted a partner in 1810, and nothing particular occurs to notice till 1819, when a

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Bookseller.*

determination was come to, to open a West End branch. They had long been urged to take this step by several of their most influential friends, and on the completion of the new street opening into Pall Mall, they took a lease of the premises No. 3 Waterloo Place, of which they became the first tenants. Sir James Allan Park, one of the judges, hurried to the house before nine o'clock on New Year's Day, in order to enrol himself as the first customer of this new fountain of orthodoxy. In the following year a proposition was made by the late Mr. John Cochran, a former partner in the house of Ogle, Duncan and Cochran, to establish another house of business in second-hand books and general standard literature, in which he was to be managing partner. In an evil hour this was assented to, a large sum was placed at Cochran's disposal, and premises taken at 148 Strand, near Somerset House. Cochran set to work and secured one of the most splendid stocks ever got together; but he bought injudiciously, and frequently at very high prices, either in rivalry with Thorpe and

others, or from the desire to possess the *The Bookseller.* monopoly of particular books: one in particular, Walton's Polyglott Bible, he had a sort of mania for, and at one time had no fewer than five copies in stock. A catalogue of this splendid collection was issued in 1824. It is one of the best and most carefully-compiled volumes of the kind ever issued in this country, and extends to 815 pages, enumerating 17,328 articles, many of them of the rarest and most valuable kind. Finding themselves considerable losers by this business, it was given up in 1827, and the stock disposed of.

“Mr. Francis Rivington died at his house at Islington, 18th October 1822, having reached the age of 77. He married Miss Margaret Ellill, sister of an eminent lead merchant; by her he had six children, four of whom survived him. In 1827, George and Francis, two sons of Mr. Charles, joined the firm; the former retired in 1842, in consequence of ill-health, and died in 1857 at the age of 55. He married Miss Jane Findlay, niece of Mr. Thomas Gardiner, of

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Bookseller.*

the firm of Bowles and Gardiner, wholesale stationers. Two years after the death of his youngest brother, Henry, who was at that time Clerk of the Stationers' Company, Mr. Charles Rivington died, 26th May 1831, aged 76. He married Jane, daughter of Daniel Curling, Esq., of Her Majesty's Customs, by whom he had twelve children, nine of whom survived him. Francis, above-mentioned, only retired from the firm in July 1859, and for some years led a not altogether inactive life, amusing himself chiefly in religious matters; he compiled or edited some small theological works, and died, aged 79, in 1885. William, a younger son, joined the printing business in St. John's Square, from which he retired in 1867. This gave him the leisure he needed for attending to numerous philanthropic schemes. After an active life he died in 1888.

"In consequence of the gradual but increasing movement of their literary connections towards the western districts of the Metropolis, the firm in 1853 removed their ancient place of business from St. Paul's Churchyard and



Mayall, Photo.

Walker & Bostall, Ph. Sc.

Rivington
æ lat. 49.





consolidated it under one roof at 3 Waterloo Place, where it has since been carried on." *The Bookseller.*

After his cousin Francis's retirement the head of the house was Mr. John, who became a partner in 1836. He was the only child of John, by Anna, daughter of the Rev. John Blackburn, Canon of York. John (senior) died at Sydenham, 21st November 1841, aged 62. His son John, after continuing head of the house till 1867, then retired in favour of Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington, who, with his brother Septimus, continued the business till 1889, when his connection with the firm was dissolved, and he joined in the foundation of the business carried on under the style of Percival and Co. at 34 King Street, Covent Garden. As already announced, Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington is now about to retire, and the business will be amalgamated with that of Messrs. Longmans.

When, in December 1859, the above notice of this house first appeared in the pages of *The Bookseller*, it concluded with

*The
Bookseller.*

the following paragraph:—"The present firm consists of John, the fifth in direct descent from the founder, and Francis Hansard, who is the sixth. And as the business is still in a most flourishing condition, we may hope that a future number of *The Bookseller* will chronicle the names of six more generations of Rivingtons. We have said that the house has never been famous for making money, but it is famous for one thing that is of more value—its good name, for uprightness in all the transactions in which it has been engaged, a correctness that has ever been exercised by every successive generation, even when the carrying of it out has been to their own detriment." And we now add that we pen this notice with very great regret. Houses so nearly two centuries old are not plentiful. We trust that Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington, now relieved from the cares of a business in which he has been actively engaged for thirty-nine years, may live to enjoy many more years of peaceful retirement—he may be assured that he carries with him the

good wishes of all with whom he was acquainted.¹ *The Bookseller.*

Mr. Septimus Rivington in May 1889 arranged for the dissolution of his partnership with his eldest brother, Mr. Francis Hansard Rivington, in consequence of the attitude assumed by the latter, and agreed, as a compromise on debated matters, not to use his name for the remaining four years of their partnership which he gave up.²

The following from the *Athenæum* of 1st July 1893, is one among many other similar notices from newspapers of that date :— *The Athenæum.*

“The old name of Rivington, one of the oldest in the trade, will reappear on titlepages to-day. Not very long ago Mr. [F. H.] Rivington sold his historic business to Messrs. Longmans, and in 1891 Mr. W. J. Rivington retired from the firm of Sampson Low and Co. Since then the name has been unrepresented among our publishing houses. In November 1889 Mr. S. Rivington, having

¹ End of extract from *The Bookseller*.

² [S. R.]

*The
Athenæum.*

agreed not to use his own name for four years, formed with a son of Dr. Percival of Rugby, the firm of Percival and Company, who have been prolific publishers since they began business. To-day Messrs. Percival and Co. become Messrs. Rivington, Percival and Co. Mr. S. Rivington was a partner for twenty-two years in the house in Waterloo Place, and retired from it in 1889."

*The
Publishers'
Circular.*

The following more extended notice is from the *Publishers' Circular* of 1st July 1893 :—

"The name of Rivington has existed continuously in the publishing trade for 182 years, with the exception of the last year and a half ; and during that time a member of the family, in the person of Mr. S. Rivington, has been head of the publishing house of Percival and Company, so that for more than a century and three-quarters the same family have been engaged in the same line of business.

The firm of Messrs. Percival and Company, publishers, 34 King Street, Covent Garden, London, becomes on 1st July, Rivington, Percival and Company. The partners are

Mr. Septimus Rivington, of Trinity College, Oxford, a partner for twenty-two years, from 1867 to 1889, in the late firm of Messrs. Rivington, 3 Waterloo Place, London, and Mr. John Guthrie Percival, of Magdalen College, Oxford, a son of the Rev. Dr. Percival, Head Master of Rugby School.

*The
Publishers'
Circular.*

In 1887 Mr. Septimus Rivington suffered from an acute attack of illness, and this finally led to the disruption¹ of the firm of Rivington and Co. In November 1889 Mr. S. Rivington formed, with his partner, the firm of Percival and Co., which now becomes Rivington, Percival and Co. Mr. Rivington has been under an engagement, until the present time, not to allow his name to appear in any firm of publishers.

Mr. Septimus Rivington is the seventh and youngest son of the late Mr. Francis Rivington, and was educated at Tonbridge School; from there he took an exhibition to Trinity College, Oxford. He was destined for the Bar and kept some of his terms as a student at the Inner Temple; but, on the

¹ In May 1889.

retirement in 1867 from the family firm, of his cousin, Mr. John Rivington, he accepted the offer of a partnership. At that time the firm of Rivingtons had very few educational works except the time-honoured ones of Kerchever Arnold. Mr. S. Rivington set himself to work to increase the educational side, this being considered the most natural class of publishing business that could be successfully conducted alongside of the High Church theological connection of the firm. The result was the publication by the firm of such well-known educational works as Messrs. Abbott and Mansfield's Greek Grammar, Mr. Arthur Sidgwick's books on Greek Prose Composition and his *Scenes from Greek Plays*, Mr. F. D. Morice's *Stories from Attic Greek*, Dr. Franck Bright's *Periods of English History*, and Dean Bradley's revised edition of *Arnold's Latin Prose Composition*. It was also owing to Mr. S. Rivington's suggestion that the firm issued the first volumes of sermons published by Dr. Paget, the present Dean of Christ Church, and by Canon Scott Holland, as well

as the later volumes of sermons published by Dr. Liddon during his lifetime. Mr. Rivington is himself an author of a *History of Tonbridge School*. *The Publishers' Circular.*

Mr. S. Rivington has had an unusually varied experience in the trade, having taken an active part as a partner in the management of retail businesses at 3 Waterloo Place, London, at Oxford and at Cambridge, of a wholesale Bible business in Stationers' Hall Court, and of a share of the publishing department of the firm.

The firm of Messrs. Rivington, Percival and Co. have turned their attention, in the educational line, to improving the text-books and methods for teaching French, English, German, and Latin. Their Educational List contains the names of the Head Masters of such schools as Harrow, Rugby, Clifton, Haileybury, Wellington College, Tonbridge, etc. ; besides those of Professor Pelham, Professor Ransome, Professor Campbell, Dr. Evelyn Abbott, Mr. Arthur Sidgwick, Rev. F. D. Morice, Mr. E. D. Mansfield, etc. The circulation of their educational works alone

*The
Publishers'
Circular.*

during 1892 was considerably over 100,000 volumes, of which more than 71,000 were published at net prices. They also have an increasing list of publications in theology and general literature as well as a medical connection.

We are glad to learn that Mr. S. Rivington has two sons, now at Harrow and Rugby Schools, destined for the business, so that the continuity of the name in the business should be thus provided for."

TAILPIECE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CAMBRAY'S
PASTORAL LETTER, 1715. *See opposite p. 2.*



APPENDIX

EXTRACTS FROM
CHARLES RIVINGTON'S¹ JOURNAL,

Found among his papers after his decease.

JOURNAL OF OCCURRENCES IN MY OWN LIFE

Sept. 5, 1778. — I set off this morning for Margate, intending to spend three weeks there. I was there sixteen years ago for my health, and staid five months. I was then about eight years old. My uncle Robert Gosling's, Mr. Cawne's, Mr. F. Gosling's families being there, would, I thought, make my jaunt very agreeable, and my sister being with my Aunt Gosling was another inducement. I had never been at any watering-place, and therefore if I did not meet with entertainment, I thought I should at least find novelty. I went in the diligence from the Cross Keys in Wood Street. We set off at six in the morning.

Charles
Rivington's
Journal.

¹ See page 28.

Charles
Rivington's
Journal.

My fellow-travellers were both gentlemen—one of them a large man who is or was captain of one of the Margate hoys, an elderly man, and well known in almost every town we went through. The other gentleman was not much larger than myself, and rather an entertaining companion. I found he was a sugar-baker in or near White-chapel. The man who drove us to Rochester was lazy, and made a tedious journey of it. The inns at Dartford and Rochester were filled with people going to the camp at Coxheath. The road is very pleasant ; we had a fine view of the river. I wished to have seen more vessels upon it, as there were not above three or four that I could distinguish. The hills are rather tiresome, but they afford a pleasing variety of prospect. We had walked up Shooter's Hill, and had a fine view. From Boston Hill too we had a fine prospect. We got into Margate soon after eight, and I went to my uncle's immediately.

Sunday, Sept. 6.—Rose about seven ; walked to Mr. Cawne's, and inquired of his servant for a hairdresser. I was surprised to find the place so large, and to see so many new buildings. Mr. Cawne's house is in Church Fields, where there is a row of houses, which has been built within these few years. The Public Rooms are at the end of the row, and adjoining to them is a hand-

some square, called from the name of the person who built it, Cecil Square. The situation of the houses in Church Field is very pleasant, having a fine open prospect in front, and at high water a side view of the sea.

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Sept. 8.—Took a ride on horseback in the afternoon with my cousin William¹ to see a race at Mount Pleasant; this is a beautiful spot, commanding a fine view of the sea. We saw the cliffs of Calais very plain. There were three horses started, the first heat one of them was distanced, and the second was won by the horse who had won the first, which consequently concluded the race. There were several gentlemen's carriages there, and whiskeys, and, as if there was not a carriage unhired, one of the bathing-machines was drawn there by two horses. All the young Margate bucks were there, riding about the course on their steeds, and some shabby fellows. We got home before dark, to the great satisfaction of my aunt, who was anxious for the safety of her son.

Sept. 28.—Rose between four and five in order to go to town by the diligence. It called

¹ Afterwards head of the firm of Messrs. Goslings and Sharpe, bankers, Fleet Street.

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Journal.

upon me before five; it was not light, but in about an hour the day began to appear. My fellow-travellers were a lady and a youth with her, neither of them larger than myself, which was very agreeable. The lady is a Mrs. Wilkinson, a milliner in Tavistock Street, very conversable; we talked over the diversions of Margate, and were very sociable. The name of the youth I do not remember. I never travelled on a more pleasant day for the time of year, nor upon a more pleasant road. The rain that had fallen on Saturday had laid the dust, the sky was clear, and the sun warmed us agreeably with his rays. The hills afforded us delightful prospects, and a number of ships which we continually saw sailing for London presented us with beautiful views. I should have enjoyed the circumstances more had I been going out from, instead of returning to, home. For I freely own I could not leave Margate without regret. It was dark or dusk before we got to Blackheath. We were under some apprehension of being stopped, and saw several horsemen who, we thought, looked like highwaymen. But we got to town between seven and eight without interruption.

The company at Margate amuse themselves in the morning with riding or walking, and going to

the circulating libraries. The country about Margate is very fine ; there are several pleasant villages near it, which are often visited in the morning excursions. The two libraries are much frequented, and are both very convenient lounging-places, and a person who has any acquaintances is sure to meet with some of them at these shops. Here you may sit and chat, or read the newspapers, or if you have a few shillings to sport away, try your luck in the raffles. The rooms are open from eleven to one for the company to walk, and there is music ; but in fine weather they are not much frequented. Many parties are made for going on the sea to fish, and when the weather is favourable are very agreeable. The rooms are open every evening ; three times in the week there are balls ; these are conducted by a master of the ceremonies, who is supported by the subscriptions of the company. Those who dislike dancing play at cards, or walk about. On those nights when there is no dancing there are plays, to which the company generally go once or twice in the season. These, I think, are the chief amusements of this place. The summer having been uncommonly fine it was very full.

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Feb. 10, 1779.—This being the day appointed by authority for a general fast and humiliation, it

Charles
Rivington's
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was by all serious people properly observed. I was at Islington. Mr. Strachan preached, and made a very sensible sermon upon the occasion, which was in general much approved of.

[The following extract of one month's engagements will serve as a fair specimen of the entries relating to his usual course of life.]

Feb. 1, 1780.—Supped at my Club.

Feb. 2.—Spent the evening at Mr. Clarke's at Sadler's Hall, Cheapside. There was a very large company. I believe near sixteen. I played at cards before supper. We were very joyous afterwards, and about twelve o'clock we began dancing. We made up seven or eight couple, but our music being only a harpsichord, and the gentleman who played not a very capital performer, we were obliged to sit down, after we had gone down one or two dances. We broke up about one o'clock.

Feb. 3.—Engaged in business in St. Paul's Churchyard all the evening.

Feb. 4.—This day being appointed for a fast, we did no business. I went to church at Islington, and heard a very good sermon from Mr. Crowther. There was a numerous congregation.

Feb. 5.—Supped in St. Paul's Churchyard. My brother and sister J. R. were there.

Sunday, Feb. 6.—Dined at Islington.

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Feb. 7.—Supped at Mr. Wheeler's. Mr., Mrs., and Miss Edison, my aunt and Mr. J. Wheeler, and Mr. J. Wilkins, were there. Miss Edison's person is pleasing, rather pretty. She seems to promise to be a very accomplished young lady.

Feb. 9.—Supped at the King's Head Room, Islington, with the Committee of the Assembly, Mr. Hole, Hodges, Curtis, Morgan, Shirley, Rev. Mr. Walker, and myself, were the company. We played at whist, and I passed an agreeable evening. Mr. Shirley is a sensible man, and a very entertaining companion.

Feb. 10.—Went with my two sisters and my brother Harry to Drury Lane Theatre to see *The Winter's Tale* and *The Critic*. I had seen both these pieces before, but was very well entertained. My mother paid the whole expense.

Feb. 11.—Spent the evening at my brother's in St. John's Square. Mr. Richard Watford, Mr. Wm. Sellon, and Mr. Kinnard were there.

Feb. 12.—Supped at the same house. My brother and sister F. R. were there.

Sunday, Feb. 13.—Dined at Islington. Mr. Thomas Wheeler came in the afternoon to tea.

Feb. 14.—Went to Islington Assembly. There was very little company there. We made up only eight couples. I danced with Miss Roberts.

We had two cotillons after the country dances, and a minuet. I passed a very agreeable evening.

Feb. 15.—Supped at my Club. It was a good meeting. There were ten members and a visitor.

Feb. 16.—Supped by appointment at Mr. Watford's brewhouse in Clerkenwell. Our invitation was to sup in the bachelor's style. Mr. W. Sellon, Mr. G. Scott, and my brother J. R. were there. Mr. Scott is a most lively, entertaining companion, and set us upon the laugh continually. We played at cards all the evening, and passed our time very agreeably.

Feb. 18.—Spent the evening, by appointment, at Mr. Cawne's. Mrs. Cawne from Romford, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot, Mr. Bax, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Cameron the banker, my sister, and my brother and sister F. R., were there. Our supper was very elegant.

Feb. 19.—Supped in St. Paul's Churchyard. My brother and sister J. R. were there.

Sunday, Feb. 20.—Dined at Islington. My aunt Wheeler, with my cousin Susanna Rivington, daughter of my uncle J. R.—a very fine girl of ten years old, of pleasing manners, and great sensibility for her years, lately arrived from America, and consigned to the care of my aunt,—Mr. Storhouse, and Mr. Thomas and Peter Wheeler were there.

Feb. 21.—Went to Clerkenwell Assembly. It was a very full meeting. I danced two minuets before the country dances. I had for my partner a Miss Rush, to whom I was introduced by Mr. Bristowe. There were two sisters there, and I danced with the youngest. She is a smart young lady about seventeen or eighteen. The two last dances we did not go down, but played a rubber at whist.

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Journal.

Feb. 22.—Went to the play at half-price. I got a very good seat in the pit, and saw the two last acts of *The Rivals*, which are very laughable, but I think rather too farcical. The entertainment was the *Pantomime of Fortunatus*, with which I was very well entertained. It concluded with a representation of the storming of Fort Omsa. The scene is finely painted, and was much applauded.

Feb. 24.—Went with my sister to see Mrs. Cowley's new comedy at Covent Garden, called *The Belle's Stratagem*, with which we were very much pleased. The entertainment was *The Deaf Lover*, which is a laughable performance.

Feb. 26.—Supped in St. John's Square. My sister, and my brother and sister F. R., were there.

Sunday, Feb. 27.—Went to St. Paul's in the morning. Dined at Islington, as did my brother F. R. Came to town in the evening, and supped at my aunt Wheeler's.

Feb. 28.—Rose in the morning before seven and went to Mr. Cowling's riding-school, for the first time this winter, and rode on horseback, intending to take lessons for a month. Supped at Mr. F. Gosling's. There were there my sister, my brother and sister F. R., Mr. Cawne, Mr. F. Douce, Mr. E. Gosling, and another gentleman.

Feb. 29.—Magazine night. Slept in St. Paul's Churchyard.

Sunday, July 10.—Supped in St. Paul's Churchyard. I this day received a summons, as a member of the Military Association, to meet the corps in St. Paul's Churchyard early to-morrow morning, completely armed and accoutred, in order to assist the Sheriffs in the discharge of their office at the execution of the rioters.¹

July 11.—This morning I attended, as above mentioned, at half-past six o'clock, and with about two hundred of our corps was present at three executions, viz. in Coleman Street, Bishopsgate Street, and Tower Hill. The number of people who were at the executions in Bishopsgate Street and Tower Hill was very great. They were very quick, and there was no more confusion than must be expected from a multitude collecting together in one place and each individual

¹ Lord George Gordon riots.

anxious to satisfy his curiosity. The convicts behaved with great penitence. I should not omit to mention that the Sheriffs gave us a breakfast at the White Hart Tavern, which was necessary, as we were under arms between eight and nine hours, and the day was warm and sultry. I supped in St. Paul's Churchyard.

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July 12.—This morning I attended as before, and was present at two executions, viz. in Bow Street, Covent Garden, and Holborn. The day was rather unfavourable. We had several very heavy showers of rain, which wetted me to my skin, and made the streets so dirty and slippery that our march was very disagreeable. I considered this as a kind of seasoning very useful for a young soldier. The criminals seemed to die very penitent. We went in the evening to Mr. Mair's, and supped there. Miss Mair was there upon a visit.

July 20.—Attended, with about one hundred of the Association, the executions this morning at Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, and Shoreditch. We had a breakfast at the Sheriffs' expense at the White Hart Tavern. We marched near nine miles, and were under arms between eight and nine hours. In the evening supped in St. Paul's Churchyard.

July 21.—Attended again this morning two executions at Old Street and Moorfields. There

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were not above fifty of our corps that attended these executions. Part of the time we were out it rained hard, and wetted most of us to the skin. At these two places five men were executed, and all behaved in a very proper manner. I supped in St. Paul's Churchyard.

July 22.—I this morning attended with the Association as before, and was present at an execution in Bloomsbury Square, where two of the rioters suffered.

Aug. 1.—Supped in St. John's Square.

Wednesday, Aug. 2.—Went to the artillery ground in the afternoon, and was drilled with many others. Slept in town.

Wednesday, Aug. 9.—Went in the afternoon to the artillery ground, where I was drilled with the other recruits. I went in my regimental coat, being in hopes of joining the battalion, but was disappointed. Supped in St. Paul's Churchyard.

Aug. 16.—Admitted into the 4th Company of the London Association.

Aug. 17.—Dined at the Half Moon Tavern with my Club. There were about twelve members present. I was challenged by Radford to go through the manual exercise with him for a bottle of claret. This I accepted, but, to my great mortification, by beginning in a hurry I made a blunder and lost my wager!

[The Journal was discontinued about this time, in consequence of an excursion into the country, and was not resumed till the autumn of the following year, 1781.]

I begin with the occasion of my not continuing my narrations. The office of printer [to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge] became vacant the latter end of August, and the election was not until the 3rd of October. During this period I was much engaged in canvassing [for my brother], a considerable part of which business fell to my lot, having a personal knowledge of many of the members. . . . The Archbishop of Canterbury did us the honour of coming to vote in person for my brother, and the members who made my brother's number 58 were characters as respectable as any in the Society's list. . . . Though my time was almost wholly engaged with this affair until the 3rd of October, yet I found opportunity to attend some few engagements. One in particular was of so new a kind that I shall endeavour to give a particular account of it. This was attending, on the 9th of September [1781], a party of the London Association, who agreed to go to Sydenham to practise ball-firing. We were about 150 in number, and set off from the Obelisk in St. George's Fields

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about five in the morning, attended by two or three sergeants of the Guards with drums and fifes. We marched down to Dulwich, where we stopped and breakfasted, and then marched to Sydenham Common. Here we were drawn up in two ranks, and went through the manual exercise ; we then moved to the ground, where we practised firing at targets. The place was excellently well adapted for the purpose, being almost an amphitheatre of hills. Each company fired at a particular target, and fired twelve rounds of ball. When these were discharged we returned to the Common, and were refreshed with some bread and cheese and beer. We then were supplied with eighteen rounds of cartridges, and marched back to Dulwich Common, where we had a sham fight, which was new to us, and entertaining. When this was over the whole corps joined and went through a variety of manœuvres in marching, which lasted until four o'clock. We then dined at Dulwich (I think at the Greyhound). Our dinner was very plain and substantial, and very reasonable, as we paid but five shillings for the expenses of the day. We were not allowed to sit more than half an hour after dinner, lest after the fatigue we had undergone the bottle might be circulated with too great freedom. We got to town between eight and nine. Upon the whole we had a very agree-

able day. The exercise was rather too much, as we did not march less than twenty-five miles, which to young men in business, and therefore not likely to be much accustomed to this kind of exercise, was certainly too fatiguing. Fortunately for us, the day was very favourable, the sun scarcely appearing. Had it been otherwise, I think many of us would have been ill. I was not so much tired as I expected. The 14th of this month I was invited by my friend, Mr. E. Clarke, to an annual dance given by the Sadlers' Company at their hall. I danced with his sister, whom I think I have had occasion to mention before. There was a mixture of company—some very vulgar. I danced two or three cotillons, and upon the whole spent an agreeable evening.—On the 24th I attended the funeral of Alderman Kirkman, as a member of the London Association. He was buried in Bassishaw Church. He had behaved with great spirit during the late riots, and had paid particular attention to the City Light Horse Volunteers, who, to show respect to his memory, offered to attend the funeral, as did the Foot Association. The procession was long, and was conducted with great solemnity. It was attended by as great a concourse of spectators as ever were brought together by any public sight in London. The number of our corps who attended

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was about 260—the strongest meeting we ever had. We rendezvoused at the Obelisk in St. George's Fields, where we met, and conducted the body through the city to the church. The number of the Light Horse Volunteers present was about fifty. The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen attended the procession. A band of martial instruments, consisting of kettledrums, trumpets, and fifes played alternately, and added greatly to the solemnity of the whole. Our corps was drawn up near the church in Basinghall Street, and as soon as the body was interred we fired three volleys. We marched with our arms in the funeral position. Soon after we were drawn up in St. George's Fields previous to the procession there fell one of the most violent showers of rain I ever remember, which lasted several minutes, and wetted the whole corps as completely as if they had been dragged through a pond. Our clothes dried upon our backs. I was fortunate enough to escape taking cold. The month of October passed away without anything material, except the event on the 3rd instant which I have mentioned. Nor do I remember anything happening worth relating in November, excepting that I dined at the London Tavern with the Association on the 13th, when a very elegant sword was presented to Mr. Turner, our

commander, from the Association, who returned them his thanks in so handsome a manner as to please every one. December also, if my memory fails not, was equally barren of events.

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✓ Having adopted the narrative mode, I cannot close this sketch without observing that my time was filled up much in the same way as heretofore. One amusement, however, I was deprived of, which was the Assembly at Islington. It had not been well attended the last winter, and therefore it was thought it might as well be dropped this, and perhaps might be revived with more spirit in a succeeding year. This was rather a disappointment to me, as it was the most agreeable Assembly for dancing I ever was at. But I reconciled it with a degree of satisfaction by recollecting that I should be saved an expense which to my finances was considerable.

This year fully completes twenty-six years of my life. It is difficult for me to say how it has been spent. But when I acknowledge there is much to blame, I hope I may say there is something to commend. Yet if these memoranda which I have made in this book are to be the test of my conduct, it must appear to be very trifling and vain. Indeed I am almost ashamed myself to read my own account, for it makes me appear to have studied nothing else but how to

dissipate my time in amusement. I must, therefore, in justice to myself, observe that I intended by what I have written to give nothing more than an account of my amusements.

Aug. 19, 1781.—The first engagement of any consequence I had this year was to a private dance at Mrs. Robinson's in Highburgh Place on the 11th of January. I had for my partner Miss Richardson. We had a very handsome supper, and spent a very agreeable evening.—The 17th instant I went to the ball at the Pantheon, given by our Association. Each member paid a guinea for his ticket, which admitted himself and three ladies, or one gentleman and two ladies. My brother J. R. and two sisters went with me. My brother and sister F. R. went with Mr. Clarke. The Association wore their uniform. There were between twelve and fifteen hundred present, and they made a brilliant appearance. There were a great many pretty women, and but few of the vulgar. Upon the whole we were very much entertained with our evening, and the company seemed in general pleased. Indeed the whole was conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum, and gave great satisfaction.—The 24th I went to Dowgate Hill Assembly, my brother having given me a ticket. I danced with Miss Sharpe of Bridge Street, a very agreeable young

lady, and pleasing person.—The 25th I dined at the London Tavern at the Anniversary Dinner of St. Paul's School. The meeting was but thin. I spent, however, an agreeable afternoon and evening.—On the 5th of February I was summoned to attend the London Association, who, in order to prevent troops being sent into the city, had offered their services to the Sheriffs to preserve the peace of the city during the trial of Lord George Gordon, which came on this day. We met at the Royal Exchange between eight and nine in the morning, and after being mustered, we marched to St. Paul's Churchyard. Our number was about 190 or 200. The care of the city west of St. Paul's Churchyard was left to our Association. The other parts were guarded by the Artillery Company and the Ward Associations. St. Paul's Cathedral was our head-quarters, and at night the Queen Anne's Tavern. We were stationed at St. Paul's; Newgate; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street; and Blackfriars. At these posts half our corps in different parties were constantly upon duty, and relieved one another every two hours. I happened not to go upon duty till two o'clock in the afternoon. I then went to St. Andrew's till four o'clock; from eight till ten I was in St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, and from two to four on Tuesday morning was at Newgate.

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We were on duty from nine o'clock on Monday morning till near six on Tuesday morning. We were very fortunate in the day being fine and the night remarkably mild and pleasant for the season. It was my lot when at Newgate to be sentried before the gate in the Old Bailey from two to three. I played at cards several hours at different opportunities to pass away the time. Everything passed off very quietly in the streets.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN ROBERT
RIVINGTON¹

October 9, 1800

Captain of the *Kent*, East Indiaman

From the "India Telegraph"

ON Sunday last accounts were received of the Captain of the Honourable Company's ship *Kent*, Captain Rivington, after an engagement of considerable duration with the *Confiance*, Captain Surcouf, off the Land Heads. The following particulars we have received from the officers, passengers, etc.

Captain
Robert
Rivington.

On Tuesday morning, 7th October, 1800, at daylight, a strange sail was discovered in the north-west quarter. The *Kent* was at that time lying to for a pilot, and Captain Rivington, conceiving the vessel in sight to be a pilot schooner, immediately bore down, hoisted his colours, and made

¹ See pages 16, 17.

Captain
Robert
Rivington.

the signal for a pilot. The stranger upon this made sail and hauled up towards the *Kent*. It was soon afterwards discovered that she was a ship; the hands were immediately called to quarters, and the ship prepared for action. Upon her approach to the *Kent*, as she showed no colours, a shot was fired at her from the larboard side, which was followed up as she passed upon the opposite tack by a broadside, and a constant fire kept up whilst she was within reach of our guns. The privateer (for so she was ascertained to be now) soon afterwards tacked, came upon the larboard side, and commenced the engagement at about musket shot, but without doing much injury, although she continued in this position for some time. She then shot ahead, and passing round the bows of the *Kent*, renewed the engagement on the other side, nearly at the same distance and for the same length of time, but with as little effect as before. She afterwards made sail ahead, as if with the intention of relinquishing the attack and making off, which she could easily have done, having greatly the superiority in sailing; when she had got about half a mile ahead of the *Kent* she was, however, observed to haul her mainsail up, swerve round immediately towards her, and in about ten or fifteen minutes afterwards, or as soon as her

guns would bear, she, for the first time, hoisted the national colours (Surcouf afterwards declared that he had forgot them before), and fired a broadside, and a volley of musketry from every part of the ship, which was immediately returned by the *Kent*, and continued while her guns could bear. The privateer, then wearing round her stern, ranged close up alongside and received a full discharge from the *Kent's* starboard guns. At this moment she fired a whole broadside and threw a number of hand-grenades from her tops into the *Kent*, some of which penetrated the upper deck and burst upon the gun deck. At the same time a fire of musketry was kept up from her tops, which killed and wounded a number of passengers and recruits that were on the quarter-deck and poop. When the ships were completely locked together, Captain Surcouf entered at the head of about 150 men, completely armed for boarding, having each a sabre and a brace of pistols. The contest on deck was now desperate, and lasted for about twenty minutes, but the enemy having greatly the superiority, both in numbers and arms, were victorious, and a dreadful carnage ensued, they showing no quarter to any who came in their way, whether with or without arms; and such was their savage cruelty that they even stabbed some of the sick in bed.

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Upon gaining possession of the poop the French immediately cut down the colours, and soon after had complete possession of the ship. Captain Surcouf, not finding inclination in his crew to board, had been under the necessity of plying them several times with liquor, as well as to promise them an hour's pillage in the event of carrying the ship, and this time they completely occupied breaking open every package they could come at, and even taking the coats, hats, shoes, or anything they fancied from the persons of the officers and passengers.

From the commencement of the action until the French were in possession of the ship was about an hour and forty-seven minutes, and from the gallant manner in which the officers and crew of the *Kent* behaved while the ships were clear of each other, there is not a doubt but she would have overcome the privateer; but there being a very great deficiency in small arms, they had no means of defending themselves against such a number of boarders, so well prepared for close action, and Captain Surcouf acknowledged that had he not succeeded in carrying her, his own ship must soon have sunk alongside.


It is with extreme regret we add that Captain Rivington, after the most manly conduct in the

defence of his ship, fell by the musketry from the tops of the privateer, while Surcouf was in the act of boarding. Such was the lamented though glorious end of this gallant commander, who had been thirty years in the service, was respected by all his crew, and beloved by all who knew him.

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In the afternoon the officers, passengers, and crew of the *Kent* were sent on board an Arab vessel which hove in sight, and which had been plundered the day before by the privateer. Some of the seamen were, however, detained on board the privateer and put into irons, with the hopes of inducing them to enter service. The chief officer, surgeon, and surgeon's mate, with about thirteen of the most dangerously wounded, were detained on board the *Kent*, under pretence of its requiring too much time to remove them. Although the prize master informed the unfortunate people who were sent on board the Arab that there was abundance of provisions and water, yet upon inquiry there was found only half a pint of rain water each day for four days with a few dates, to subsist upon, and were consequently reduced to the utmost distress before they were relieved by one of the pilot schooners they met in the roads.

Printed by R. & R. CLARK, Edinburgh



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